TOPICS OF INTEREST

Mr. Ross Gast in Los Angeles recently sent us a clipping from the Honolulu paper regarding a new hibiscus garden being started by the City Park Department. We believe that the following quotations from a letter answering our inquiry will be interesting to members:

"This will acknowledge your letter of March 26th, which has been forwarded to Mr. Arthur Nagao, President of the Hawaiian Hibiscus Society. Mr. Nagao will no doubt fill you in on the details of the Society which has been active here for many years.

This Board, however, is responsible for the creation of the Hibiscus Garden now under construction. Planting is scheduled for June of this year. The Garden is composed of only two acres which was felt to be sufficient to contain the hibiscus of the quality to which we have limited ourselves. Out of the five thousand or so locally available hybrids, we have selected only two hundred and fifty for display. Each specimen represents contemporary perfection for it's type. Arrangement is by height and color, ranging from spreading ground cover types to 25 foot trees. The colors range from almost black red to pure white with a special section devoted to the coffee colors, tans and greys and multicolors.

These hybrids share the Garden with three other catagories of display, (1) the old fashion hybrids, which contain some of the better ones hibridized around the turn of the century and up to World War II, but do not meet our new standards; (2) the exotic tropical species which include trees up to

60 feet; (3) the last category is perhaps the most interesting botanically. It is a collection of the varieties endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, beautiful things, some of which are gragrant. Some are 40 foot orange flower trees, some are yellow, red, pink or white, covering the gamut of forms from low ground covers to the trees.

We are importing hibiscus of a true blue color, which we hope we can cross with the native whites to get a new color line. They have managed to breed three day flowers, persistence glossy foliage, wind resistent petals, dinner plate size flowers, etc. All that's left is to produce a line of true blues and transfer fragrance to the less fortunate ones and we'll have it made.

Your interest in our venture is appreciated. We shall be glad to correspond further and particularly to receive the cions you mentioned in your letter."

/S/ Paul R. Weissich
Landscape Architect
City Board of Parks
and Recreation
Honolulu, T. H.

Your Editor regrets that lack of space prevented printing this letter in it's entirety but the above covers the main parts. "Cions" remark is in answer to our offer to send cutting wood of possibly 20 varieties known to have originated in Florida. For your information this wood has been sent by your Editor and Bruce Parnell. Varieties sent will not be listed here, but we hope you would have approved our choices including some originated by Mrs. McGee, Dr. McKenzie, Mr. Parnell and others.